

REMARKS

Claims 1–8 and 10–18 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, the specification and claims 1, 7, 10, 11, 16, and 17 are amended, claims 9 and 19 are canceled, and an abstract is added. Support for the amendments may be found, for example, in the claims and specification as originally filed. No new matter is added.

In view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Objection to the Application

The Office Action objects to the application because it does not contain an abstract of the disclosure as required by 37 CFR §1.72(b), and requires submission of an abstract on a separate sheet. As indicated above, attached is an abstract as required. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

II. Objection to the Drawings

The Office Action objects to the drawings as failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(p)(4) because reference characters "6" at page 10, lines 4-5, and "11" at page 10, line 26, have both been used to designate "gas mixture." The Office Action requires corrected drawing sheets in response to the objection to avoid abandonment of the application. Applicants respectfully traverse this requirement.

Applicants respectfully submit that corrected drawing sheets are not necessary to respond to the objection. Instead, by this Amendment, the specification is amended at page 10, line 26, to recite "acrolein-rich gas mixture 11" instead of "gas mixture 11." Support for the amendment may be found, for example, at pages 10 and 11 of the specification where it consistently recites "acrolein-rich gas mixture 11."

Applicants respectfully submit that the informality was in the specification and not in the drawings and, thus, the specification should have been objected to instead of the

drawings. However, the amendment to the specification renders the issue moot.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection are respectfully requested.

III. Enablement Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 1–19 under the enablement requirement of 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. By this Amendment, claims 9 and 19 are canceled, rendering the rejection moot as to those claims. As to the remaining claims, Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Applicants respectfully submit that claims 9 and 16–19 were improperly rejected as not being enabled, because claims 9, 16, and 19 recite "cooling the gas mixture withdrawn at the top of the distillation column in the condenser" and "withdrawing the acrolein-rich gas mixture," which recitations correspond to the "the two essential stages of the process of the invention" mentioned at page 10, lines 12-16, of the specification.

By this Amendment, the subject matter of claims 9 and 19 are incorporated into independent claims 1 and 7, respectively. As such, each of independent claims 1, 7, and 16 requires the two stages discussed in the Office Action. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

IV. Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

The Office Action rejects claims 13–17 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

With respect to the lack of antecedent basis for the terms "the acrolein-rich gas mixture," "the condensate," and "the distillation column," Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments made to claim 1 provide the necessary antecedent basis for these recitations.

With respect to the recitations of "the distillation" and "the condensation" in claim 16, by this Amendment, claim 16 is amended to obviate the rejection. Claim 17 is amended in accordance with the Examiner's helpful suggestion.

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection are respectfully requested.

V. Allowable Subject Matter

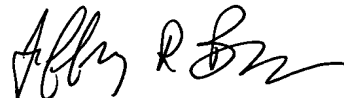
Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication that claims 1–19 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §112, first and second paragraphs set forth in the Office Action. For the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that these rejections are overcome by the claim amendments set forth in this Amendment. Accordingly, allowance of the claims is respectfully requested.

VI. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the application are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment:
Abstract

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